

THE SEALS OF THE SCROLL

***The Lamb Opens the First Six
Seals***

Revelation 6

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- ***Apostle John's Divinely-given apocalyptic vision continues ~ The Lamb has received the Scroll from God's Right Hand, which now as the seals are broken introduces a series of symbolic, prophetic visions***
- ***Upon execution of each of the scrolls within the scroll, The Lamb will bring His enemies to judgment and justice, with the climax being the Return of Christ to earth, judgment at the end times and establishment of His Kingdom***

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- ***Throughout the rest of our study, we will experience through John's eyes, The Great Tribulation, Christ's Return, and ultimately 'live out' God's Promise to His believers of His Final Kingdom of the New Heaven and New Earth***
- ***The study of these future events is called **eschatology** ~ the study of the last things!***
- ***One thing for sure is that we can never know everything about the future, but God does! And He has told us certain things through His Word that gives us as Christians hope and confidence to persevere in this life!***

PERSONAL APPLICATION ~ SOME QUESTIONS

- ***Is God always in control throughout the entire vision of Revelation – even though hardship and mayhem of the Tribulation will happen?***
 - ***You bet He is!!! Let's keep our minds and Bibles open, and discover how God is ALWAYS in control.. yesterday, today and in the future!***
 - ***God is never wrong, and never lies...***
 - ***How does this affect our lives as Christians?***

WHEN WILL THE TRIBULATION BEGIN?

- *Some people may think that the **Great Tribulation** starts with the opening of the very first Seal - Does it?*
- *Where do you think we are **NOW** in the Timeline or 'countdown' to the start of the Tribulation?*

WHAT ABOUT THE 2ND COMING OF CHRIST

- ***We know that Christ will Return in chapter 19 of Revelation...(and through study of the Word as this is clearly stated multiple times)***
- ***How will the Return of Christ affect us, and the entire universe?***
- ***One thing for sure Scripture tells us is that Jesus WILL Return and we should be ready at all times for His Return!***
- ***When will He Return? We don't know! Only the God, the Father does!***
 - ***Anyone who claims to know the date on which Christ will return should be rejected as incorrect!***

WE EAGERLY LONG FOR CHRIST'S RETURN

- ***“So Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him”***
 - ***Hebrews 9:28***
 - ***Marana tha! Come Lord Jesus!***
 - ***Revelation 22:20***
 - ***I Corinthians 16:22***

CHRIST WILL RETURN!

- ***We know from Scripture that Christ will appear a second time in judgment and will save his followers***
- ***This clear anticipation of Christ's return calls all who hope for salvation to expectant perseverance!***

SIGNS THAT PRECEDE CHRIST'S RETURN

- ***But are there “Signs” that Scripture says will precede the time of Christ’s Return - Of His Second Coming to earth?***
 - ***What should we watch for?***
 - ***What are these Signs mentioned in God’s Word?***
 - ***We can identify at least six signs that precede the Second Coming of Christ***

SIGNS THAT PRECEDE CHRIST'S RETURN

- ❖ ***The Preaching of the Gospel to All Nations (Mark 13:10)***
- ❖ ***The Great Tribulation (Mark 13, Matthew 24, Luke 21)***
- ❖ ***False Christs & Prophets (Mark 13, Matthew 24, 1 John, 2 Thessalonians)***
- ❖ ***Signs in Heaven (Mark 13, Matthew 24, Luke 21)***
- ❖ ***The Coming of the Man of Sin and Rebellion ~ The final and the worst of the 'series of antichrists' mentioned in 1 John 2:18 (Rev 13, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-10)***
- ❖ ***The Salvation of Israel (Romans 11:12, 25-26)***

AFTER THE SIGNS ?

- ***“...And then they will see the Son of man coming in clouds with great power and glory”***
 - ***Mark 13, Matthew 24, Luke 21)***
- ***The impact of these passages seems so clear that many Christians feel that Christ simply cannot return until these important events have taken place***

***BUT MANY VERSES PREDICT AN
UNEXPECTED COMING OF CHRIST!***

- ***So how can Christ Return at any time? At a sudden, unexpected hour, that 'no one knows; as so many passages in Scripture tells us!***
 - ***“But of that day or that hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.***
 - ***Take heed, watch; for you do not know when the time will come.”***
 - ***Mark 13:32-33 (also see Matthew 25:1-13)***

***WILL HE RETURN SUDDENLY, OR AFTER
THE 'SIGNS'?***

- *But wait!*
- *There is Scripture that says Christ could come at any time, and Scripture that says He will Return only after certain Signs are fulfilled !*

TO RECONCILE THESE TWO 'SETS' OF MULTIPLE VERSES IN SCRIPTURE

- ***A solution*** to this “discrepancy” is to reconcile these multiple, ‘conflicting’ verses by saying that the New Testament talks about **two distinct returns of Christ**

TWO RETURNS OF CHRIST

- ***A Secret coming at which Christ takes Christians out of the world – a coming for His Saints (the coming ‘at any moment’ the Rapture)***
- ***Then, after 7 years of Tribulation have occurred on the earth, a visible, public, triumphant coming with His saints in which Christ comes to reign over the earth (a coming preceded by many signs)***
- ***During the 7 year interval all the **signs that have not yet been fulfilled will be fulfilled !*****

PERSONAL APPLICATION OF REVELATION

- ***OR...Is it possible that the Signs that precede Christ's Return have already been fulfilled?***
- ***It is unlikely that they all have, but as we study Scripture, keep in mind all of the Signs that Scripture says must be fulfilled before Christ Returns, the parallels to the Opening of each of the Seals of the Scroll, and how all of this impacts our lives as Christians - and what is going on in the world today!***
- ***Let John's apocalyptic vision unfold, and open your minds, your Bible, and your hearts, as **God reveals His Master Plan to US!!!*****

***REVELATION 6: THE FIRST 6
SCROLLS***

Revelation 6:1-17

THE FOUR HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE

***The First Four Seals of the
Scroll***

PROPHECY FROM THE OLD TESTAMENTS

- ***The opening of the first 4 Seals with the 4 Horseman of the Apocalypse have Ties to the Old Testament:***
- ***The prophets **Habakkuk, Ezekiel, and Zechariah,** books of **Job, and I Kings*****
- ***Why the horse and their riders? What is the symbolism?***
 - ***Prophecy in the Old Testament***

HORSEMENTIES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- ***New Testament:***
- ***Ties of the Horsemen (and the Seals) to Jesus' words in the Olivet Discourse,***
- ***And of course, to the 2nd Coming of our Lord, where Jesus Christ Himself comes to earth to fight the final battle with evil astride His white War-horse (***Revelation 19***)***

***GOD'S CREATION ~ THE HORSE ~ MANY
TIES TO SCRIPTURE***

***“God made the horse
from the breath of the wind,
the beauty of the earth,
and the soul of an angel.”***

Author Unknown



WHY THE HORSE?

***Symbolic of
God's Glory!***



CONTEXT AND INTRODUCTION ~ THE 4 HORSEMEN

- **Revelation 6: 1-7**
 - **The First 4 Seals**
 - **“The 4 Apocalyptic Horsemen Bearing Bad News”**
- **When the first 4 Seals are broken and the Scrolls are read, why do horses and their riders appear? - Why are horses used to symbolize the pouring out of the wrath of the Lamb on unrepentant earth?**

LET THE ACTION BEGIN!

- ***4 mysterious steeds with their riders gallop through time bringing evil tidings that shake the earth!***
- ***But there's Divine purpose behind this action-packed “dark Western” – God's Master Plan!***
- ***Let's go back into the history and discover how Scripture tells us how God manifests His wrath & glory through horses and horsemen***

GOD CREATED THE HORSE

- ***“God made the horse from the breath of the wind, the beauty of the earth, and the soul of an angel.”***
 - ***Author Unknown***
- ***The Horse is God’s Creation!***
- ***Throughout the Bible, God uses His own Creation to communicate His presence with us!***

GOD'S GLORY THROUGH HIS CREATION

- ***Dramatic happenings of Nature –***
 - ***thunder, lightening, smoke, fire, and earthquakes are used as symbolism to drive home His message of communication to us, His earthly children***
- ***And so it is with the Horse ~ God's beautiful, powerful Creation is His communication to us ~ the splendid creature – the horse - God uses the horse to demonstrate His Glory (Kavod) & his very presence to us***

GLORY ~ “KAVOD” (HEBREW)

- ***“Kavod” – in Hebrew ~ heavy, a ‘weight’ ~ translates into our multitude of words which convey respect, honor, immensity, majesty and splendor!***
- ***A main message threaded throughout the Bible is that Sovereign God will make earthly events happen to demonstrate His ‘Glory’ - on His timeline***

THE HORSE – GOD’S KAVOD!

- ***How does God **demonstrate His Glory** ?***
- ***One way is through His Creation - through nature – through the animals He created (think of the 4 Living Creatures in the Heavenly Realm)***
- ***On earth, God has used the Horse to demonstrate His Glory – which should get our attention front and center as we read about the 4 Horsemen in Revelation***

GOD'S COMMUNICATION THROUGH THE HORSE

- ***Nothing is lost in communication of God when you think about the horse!***
 - ***Power, strength, beauty, magnificence...the list goes on when we think of the horse***
- ***We, as humans, are enamored with the sheer beauty, splendor and raw power and strength of the horse which reflects many of God's attributes – His Glory and presence!***
- ***After all, in the **Second Coming**, Jesus will return to earth prepared for the final battle with the enemy riding a Warhorse - demonstrating His Kavod through this magnificent creature!***

RELATES TO THE FIRST 4 SEALS OF HORSES AND THEIR RIDERS

- ***Throughout the Bible the horse is used by God to symbolize His glory and power – the horse is used to win battles for the Lord, (not for simply for transportation or to pull carts for agricultural work)***
- ***Let's review some relevant Scripture- all helps us understand the 4 horsemen Astride the 4 horses as Jesus opens the first 4 seals of the first 7***

THE BOOK OF HABAKKUK

- ***In the book of Habakkuk, the prophet warns the israelites of the future Babylonian invasions of 605, 597 and 586 BC***
 - ***Many parallels to the eschatological End Times in the Book of Revelation***
- ***Demonstrate that God is Sovereign and His justice and mercy are far beyond human comprehension***
- ***In Habakkuk, the evil Babylonians are used by God to execute justice on the Israelites of Judah ~ God's very own chosen people, who have turned against Him and worshipped Baal in these dark times***

THE ISRAELITES HAVE TURNED FROM GOD

- ***Both nations (Israel and Babylonia) will be punished for their evil acts showing that evil, wherever it may be found, always bears the seed of its own destruction***
- ***The Babylonians eventually suffer destruction, but in the mean time, God's own people, the Israelites are purified and will show true faith in God through suffering - only then will God's purpose prevail***

GOD'S WRATH

- ***God explains His Masterplan for justice to the prophet, Habakkuk, who doesn't understand how a just and merciful God can use a wicked nation like Babylon to bring punishment against God's own people, as sinful as they may be!***

GOD'S WRATH

- *How does this achieve God's Divine purpose and glory?*
- *As part of God's Sovereign plan, He raises up the Babylonians to march through the breadth of the earth with dignity and fierceness, riding war horses 'designed by God'!*

WAR HORSES DESIGNED BY GOD

- ***“Their horses are swifter than leopards, more fierce than the evening wolves;
• their horsemen press proudly on.***
- ***Their horsemen come from afar; they fly like an eagle swift to devour.”***
 - ***Habakkuk 1:7,8***

GOD USES THE HORSE FOR HIS GLORY

- ***God controls the political scene – He uses nations and His Creation for His own purposes and glory***
- ***He raised up the Babylonians, allowing them to take control and conquer their enemies (the Israelites/Assyrians) through an army of horsemen who do so swiftly and fiercely on powerful horses – all with a voracious appetite for conquest***

GOD USES THE HORSE FOR HIS GLORY

- ***A powerful message from God given to the prophet Habakkuk was that God will issue judgments against those who refuse to worship Him ~ the True God!***
- ***Those who do not worship the real God and His King, Jesus Christ, have been and will be (in Revelation) handed over by God to false gods and false kings!***

GOD'S GLORY THROUGH THE HORSE

- ***In the end, Habakkuk uses a powerful word picture prayer, using God riding His horses on His Chariot of Salvation when God brings deliverance to His people (like how he did with the Nile, Jordan rivers, and Red Sea) to fulfil His Divine Purpose of salvation of His chosen people***

GOD IS SOVEREIGN OVER HIS CREATION

- ***“Was your anger against the rivers, or your indignation against the sea, when you rode on your horses, on your chariot of salvation?”***
 - ***Habakkuk 3:8***

ZECHARIAH

- ***Other amazing parallels to Revelation with the 4 horsemen are evident in the Bible***
- ***Another notable story in the Bible is told by the prophet Zechariah***

ZECHARIAH

- ***The Jewish people have returned from exile in Babylon to Judah under Cyrus (the Persian leader) around 538 BC, only to find their land is 'tohu vavohu' – void and chaotic!***
- ***They became very discouraged, and thought God had forgotten them !***
- ***Zechariah preached that the people needed to be steadfast in their faith to God and that God has not forgotten!***

GOD'S "SPECIAL OPERATION" FORCES ON HORSEBACK

- ***Zechariah, receiving a vision from God, reminded God's people, who have recently returned to their homeland, that God is Sovereign, in control, and is working His Masterplan for their good***
- ***God knows ALL and sees ALL***

GOD'S "SPECIAL OPERATION" FORCES ON HORSEBACK

- ***Zechariah's verses remind the people that God has angels patrolling the earth, even though the people are unaware and cannot see them (Zechariah 1:7-11)***
- ***Interestingly, these angels of God's special 'ops' forces patrolling the earth are on horses!***

GOD'S HORSEMEN PATROL THE EARTH

- ***“I saw in the night, and behold, a man riding on a red horse! He was standing among the myrtle trees in the glen, and behind him were red, sorrel, and white horses.”***
- ***Then I said, What are these my Lord? The angel said to me, I will show you what they are. So the man standing among the myrtle trees answered, These are they whom the LORD has sent to patrol the earth.”***
- ***Zechariah 1:8-10***

HEAVENLY PATROL

- *Later in Zechariah's 8th vision, the prophet sees four chariots pulled by horses...the horses are red, black, white and the fourth is dappled – all of them **STRONG***
- *“I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, four chariots came out from between two mountains...*
- *The first chariot had red horses, the second black horses, the third white horses, and the fourth chariot dappled horses – all of them strong.”*
 - **Zechariah 6:1-3**

ZECHARIAH'S VISION

- ***Context***
- ***Chariots were the ancient equivalent of machines of war – symbol of military might***
 - ***The riders are clearly serving God***
- ***The overall message given from God to Zechariah, is that eventually the promised king descending from Davidic lineage from the tribe of Judah will bring salvation to the people***
- ***This king will be righteous and take care of his people – redeeming his people, with the end result being the holiness of Jerusalem***
- ***Foreshadows the Book of Revelation***

STRONG, WILLING HORSES!

- ***The horses in Zechariah are strong against Israel's oppressors! This clearly communicates that God's Heavenly Army is on the move against the Enemy***
- ***Later in Zechariah's vision it is communicated that the chariots are going out to the four winds of heaven out to the earth to serve the LORD further***

GOD'S GLORY MANIFESTED IN THE HORSE

- ***Once again, God is using the horse in His Divine army, which has been mobilized for His Glory!***

ZECHARIAH'S VISION OF 4 CHARIOTS OF HORSES

- ***“These are going out to the four winds of heaven, after presenting themselves before the LORD of all the earth.***
- ***The chariot with the black horses goes toward the north country, the white ones go after them, and the dappled ones go toward the south country.***
 - ***When the strong horses came out, they were impatient to go and patrol the earth. And the angel said, Go, patrol the earth. So they patrolled the earth.***
- ***Zechariah 6: 5-7***

RUACH ~ SPIRIT ~ WIND

- ***Wind is Ruach or ‘Spirit’ in Hebrew – symbolism that the four horse chariots, or winds, are agents of God and represent His Divine power at work throughout the world***

God told them to patrol the earth!

THE 4 HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE SERVE GOD!

- ***The words of Zechariah help us to interpret what is truly happening in Revelation as the Seal is broken and the Scroll opened and the 4 Horsemen appear***
- ***Drawing on cultural imagery, the readers of Revelation will indeed connect the words of Zechariah to Revelation and see that the 4 Horsemen indeed SERVE GOD!***

GOD IS ALWAYS IN CONTROL!

- ***The overarching message delivers a powerful assertion of God's Sovereignty***
- ***The theme of the horse is weaved throughout much of Scripture and is a reminder of God's power and authority!***
 - ***Parallels to the 4 Horsemen of Revelation can be drawn***
- ***Keep in mind that all of God's creation will be used for His Glory and will always be under His control***

GOD IS ALWAYS IN CONTROL!

- ***With that in mind...note the first command given when the Lamb opens each one of the seven seals!***
- ***John heard the word uttered by one of the 4 Living Creatures being,***
 - ***“Come!”***
- ***And then John looked, and behold, a white horse!***

COME!

- **As we will see, this one word sets the stage for the message of Revelation!**
- **Each horse symbolizes coming devastation to the earth – conquest, sword, famine, and death**
- **Important to connect it to the prophetic material of the OT to grasp the symbolism**
- ***The most important thing in the first passage of Revelation 6:1 is the word COME! Demonstrating that God is in Control!***

ALL UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF GOD!

- ***While horrible things will soon come to test all believers, none of them would happen without God's knowledge and command!***
- ***Each time a horse leaves its abode, about to wreak havoc on the earth, it is God's angels that give them the command to commence their mission!***
- ***The 4 Horsemen of the apocalypse do NOT do this by themselves!***

ALL UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF GOD!

- ***The 4 apocalyptic horsemen are under God's complete authority –***
- ***only by the Lamb's permission and under his direction can the forces symbolized by these horses inflict death through sword, famine, pestilence and wild beasts***

THE OPENING OF THE FIRST FIVE SEALS - HAS THIS EVER HAPPENED BEFORE?

- ***Pause for a moment...As you read the opening of each of the Seals I ask you to consider how the following groups of people would have interpreted them in light of Their Perspective on the World!***
- ***John, the Apostle, Disciple of Jesus – who experienced first hand Jesus’ own teachings and also knew the Old Testament including its prophecies***
- ***The first-century Christians under persecution of Roman Rule***
- ***All people in history - who have experienced wars, famine, hard times and even persecution and death...consider have these things happened before in our history? (even your own relatives like Grandparents, parents)***



THE FIRST SEAL

***The Rider on the White Horse ~
Come!***

THE LAMB OPENS THE FIRST SEAL

“Now I watched when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder,

Come!

And I looked, and behold, a white horse!

And its rider had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and he came out conquering, and to conquer.”

- ***Revelation 6:1,2***

THE RIDER ON THE WHITE HORSE

- ***Let's explore the symbolism and deep meaning behind the the First Seal ~ the Rider on the White Horse***

THE RIDER AND HIS WHITE HORSE

- *4 things stand out*
- *1. The rider is on a white horse – what does this symbolize?*
- *2. The rider has a bow – does he have arrows as well? Is he a want-to-be warrior, or a real warrior with ammunition that is not mentioned ?*
- *3. The rider was GIVEN a crown – did he earn it?*
- *4. The rider came to conquer and ‘came out’ conquering – conquer what?*

THE RIDER ON THE WHITE HORSE

- ***The rider appears to have the mindset to conquer, but without arrows will he conquer through other means besides war?***
- ***By diplomacy...or deception of diplomacy***
 - ***Is he a fake meant to deceive?***

THE RIDER ON THE WHITE HORSE

- ***He was given a crown...did he really earn it? Does this symbolize successful rule and dominion over those he came to conquer?***
- ***Is this rider a foreign conqueror like in Habakkuk sent by God to discipline those gone astray, who will at some point also be overcome and conquered by war?***

THE RIDER ON THE WHITE HORSE

- ***We read in the message to Habakkuk that God hands over those who do not worship the real God and His King, Jesus Christ to false gods and false kings***
- ***The consequences that result from these megalomaniacs and ruler cults are God's judgments against those who have rejected Him!***
- ***God brings these things on...He is in Control, but forces of wickedness are responsible for the evil they do!***

THE RIDER ON THE WHITE HORSE

- ***God gives this first rider on the white horse a crown which will set the flow of motion and parameters for the next 3 apocalyptic horsemen***
- ***We will see how it all turns out with the 4 Horsemen and the first 4 Seals when God gives authority to Death and Hades!***
- ***Why does God do this?***

THE RIDER ON THE WHITE HORSE

- ***God wants people to see what happens when humans reject the true God and embrace false gods-***
- ***When they reject the Lord's Messiah, Jesus Christ, and replace him with some chump who look good, speaks well, and promises everything***

THE RIDER ON THE WHITE HORSE

- ***With the opening words of COME! We see that God lets all this happen – He orchestrates it !***
- ***So that fools have their fun, creating chaos in the world that results in their pride and folly defiling the world***
- ***God is sending a powerful message so that His wisdom, power and righteousness ...His Glory will be seen!***
- ***God wants to be worshipped and honored as GOD and He wants people to embrace King Jesus, the Messiah! (cf Romans 1:21)***

DOES THE SYMBOLISM PERTAIN TO THE FUTURE?

- ***Many say this rider is the Anti-Christ that will be coming – a future leader with intentions and purpose against Christ and His followers***
- ***A fake leader, who will impart a false security and peace, deceiving the people into believing they are safe, but later turns on them and becomes a monster***

DOES THE SYMBOLISM PERTAIN TO THE FUTURE?

- ***Many say this is symbolic of a one-world government taking over***
- ***That this symbolizes political/military leaders' destabilizing quests to 'expand their own self-serving realms' which later leads to war and famine and world destruction***
- ***Others say this rider is a false messiah, as Jesus warned us about in Matthew***

HOW DOES THE SYMBOLISM RELATE TO JOHN IN THE FIRST CENTURY?

- ***What would Apostle John have thought of when he saw the white horse***
- ***Would he have thought back to Zechariah and connected the dots between his vision and the prophet of old? Seeing it to represent God's activity on earth, using power of His Creation to accomplish His Divine purposes?***

HOW DOES THE SYMBOLISM RELATE TO JOHN IN THE FIRST CENTURY?

- ***Apostle John would have also thought back to Jesus' own words as He spoke on the Mount of Olives (The Olivet Discourse)***
- ***Jesus warned and prophesied of coming judgments by God, saying these are “the beginning of the birth pains” (Matthew 24:8)***
- ***These judgments are birth pains means that they are more than angry retribution...and that things will get worse***
- ***All being part of a necessary process that will bring forth New Life (Revelation 21, 22)***

HOW DOES THE SYMBOLISM RELATE TO THE FIRST CENTURY?

- ***But before Jesus can take His people to the New Heavens and New Earth, he has to bring judgement for all the despising of God's Glory and the defiling of His Holiness***
- ***God is just – and Jesus has taken hold of the Scroll –There is Hope!***
- ***These things “must take place, but the end is not yet.”***
 - ***Matthew 24:6***
- ***As the Lamb breaks the seals of the Scroll, Jesus sets in motion the outworking of God's justice***

FROM JOHN'S EYES

- ***Apostle John would have interpreted his apocalyptic divine inspired vision in several ways –***
 - ***1. Through the prophecies of the OT prophets,***
 - ***2. From the words that John had heard Directly from Jesus when he was a young disciple!***
- ***Revelation/Breaking the Seals & Opening the Scroll and Matthew 24 are complementary, and represent world history between the first and second comings of Christ (rides in on a white war-horse)***
- ***Ties to the prophets such as the **Book of Daniel, Ezekiel, Zechariah**, the list goes on!***

JESUS' WORDS ~ PARALLELS TO THE 1ST 6 SEALS

- ***“See that no one leads you astray.***
- ***For many will come in my name, saying I am the Christ, and they will lead many astray.***
- ***And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet.***
 - ***For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and here will be famines and earthquakes in various places.***
 - ***All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.”***
 - ***Matthew 24:4-8 (Mark 13:5-8)***

THE FIRST RIDER – THE “MESSIANIC PRETENDER”



- *John most likely viewed the first rider on the white horse as a **Messianic Pretender, a Christ-pretending Conqueror***
- *John is living in a world where false gods are worshipped and those who don't know the real divine Messiah, Jesus, are easily led astray by false human messiahs*
 - *The rider came on a white horse, pretending to be the messiah*
 - *Jesus Christ is prophesied to be riding a white war-horse when He Returns!*

CHRIST ~ THE TRUE MESSIAH

Revelation 19 !

- **Faithful and True**
- **In Righteousness he makes war**
- **He is the Word of God with a sharp sword from His mouth**
- **The King of kings and Lord of lords**



THE FIRST HORSEMAN~THE PRETENDER

- ***The first horseman sets the stage for chaos to follow – war (not war in righteousness like the true Messiah), famine, epidemic disease, pestilence and death over a fourth of the earth***
- ***Eventually cosmic upheaval (6th Seal) in the End Times***

The First Horseman is the fake messiah and symbolizes how the antichrist will lead many astray – most of humanity falls for him, believes him, and worships him!

PROGRESSIVE POURING OUT OF GOD'S JUDGMENT

- ***The important thing is that the 4 Horseman were given authority by God – even the 4th Horseman whose Rider's name was Death – given authority to 'kill over a fourth of the earth!'"***
- ***The Fourth Horseman will sum up the disasters symbolized by the first 3 (red, black and pale horses) and instigated by the Rider on the White Horse ~ the antichrist spirit that foreshadows the antichrist and the great tribulation that presents in John's Revelation!***

THE FIRST RIDER – THE MESSIANIC PRETENDER

- ***We see that what happened in the first century is not new to the political situation – what happened thousands of years ago happens today as well***
- ***Humans want to worship “messiahs” of this culture – but we won’t - NOT God’s True Followers – we know Jesus is the Messiah***
 - ***“See that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name”***
 - ***Matthew 24:5***

FROM THE EYES OF JOHN

- ***Apostle John drew upon his knowledge of the coming of the Antichrist from Jesus's words and also from the words of the prophets***
- ***Daniel 7 has many significant parallels!***

FAKE MESSIAHS AND FALSE PROPHETS – APPLICATION TO US

- ***Throughout the history of the church, and **EVEN TODAY**, many have made claims to messianic identity, false teaching/prophets – just as Jesus warned His disciples to guard against such people, so must we!***
 - ***Deception from both the ‘world’ and **EVEN** from within the church will be prevalent and will come as false prophets leading many astray (**Matt 24:11, 1 John 2:18-27, 4:1-6, 2 John 7, 2 Thessalonians 2**)***
- ***Disciples must **Test the Spirit** to determine that they **acknowledge that Jesus is the Messiah** (1 John 2:22;***

THE FIRST RIDER ON THE WHITE HORSE

- ***Is this Rider symbolic of the Representative (human or spiritual) of the Enemy? (the “Evil one”/Satan)***
- ***Of whom Jesus spoke in Matthew 24 and in the Gospel of John 17:15 – the ‘evil one’?***
- ***Apostle John speaks of in 1 John 4:3 and 2?***
- ***The Antichrist ‘spirit’ present in the world then and today ? 1 John 4:3 and 1 John 2***

THE 'SPIRIT' OF THE ANTICHRIST

- ***As Apostle John says in 1 John 2:18***
 - ***“as you have heard the antichrist is coming, so now many antichrist have come”***
- ***And John speaks of the “spirit of the antichrist” which he says***
 - ***“is in this world already’ (1 John 4:3)***
- ***Even if any and all of the persecutors of Christ’s church were not The final Antichrist, many of them are PRECURSORS of the FINAL ANTICHRIST***

THE FIRST RIDER ON THE WHITE HORSE

- ***Many persons doing the Devil's work are already present on earth who are NOT doing God's Will***
- ***An Antichrist is anyone who denies that Jesus is the Christ***
- ***More broadly it is anyone who is of "Team Darkness" rather than "Team God"***
- ***– Anyone doing the Devil's work NOT God's work and His Will***

THE ANTICHRIST

- ***Many attempts have been made throughout history to identify THE Antichrist – the man of Lawlessness***
 - ***Historical figures with authority that have brought havoc and devastation among people on the earth – who have persecuted Christians and even demanded to be worshipped***
- ***Nero, Domitian, and more recently Hitler, Stalin, and even during the Reformation the Pope of the Catholic church who persecuted Protestants such as Martin Luther and Calvin***

ANTICHRIST WARNINGS CAN HAVE POSITIVE BENEFITS

- **Warnings about the antichrist coming that will precede the 2nd Coming of Christ has positive spiritual benefits as we seek to live the Christian life in the midst of an evil world**
- **We have seen many wars - in WWII it seemed Hitler was the antichrist**
- **Many times, including way back in the first century, Christians being fed to wild beasts and burned alive, seemed like the Great Tribulation and under the reign of the antichrist**
- **These events fade, then return, and our expectations of the 2nd Coming of Christ is increased again!**

OUR REDEMPTION IS NEAR

- ***With each successive wave, WE DON'T KNOW which one will be the one, the last – before Christ Returns!***
 - ***This is good, because God did not intend for us to know exactly***
 - ***But we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit - be ready, diligent, know scripture and be discerning***
 - ***And remember Jesus' words,***
- ***“When these things begin to take place, look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”***
 - ***(Luke 21:28)***

THE FINAL ANTICHRIST IS YET TO COME

- ***But these identifications of the one Antichrist have proved false – as their appearance did not precede the Second Coming of Christ***
- ***It is likely that a Yet worse ‘man of lawlessness’ – The Antichrist – will arise on the scene and bring unparalleled suffering and persecution***
- ***This antichrist will be destroyed by Jesus when He Returns (as predicted in the Book of Revelation)***
- ***But the spirit of the antichrist is already here and we have been warned!***

WE NEED TO BE DILIGENT AND DISCERNING

- **This *Final Antichrist* has yet to have appeared and this sign preceding Christ's Return has not yet been fulfilled (2 Thessalonians 2)**
- **But the words of Jesus in the Gospels (Matthew 24) and Scripture (1 John 2, Revelation 6:1,2) gives us warning concerning Antichrists**
- **The Antichrist spirit – already present in this world !**
- **We, who are in the Spirit, have knowledge of Christ and He abides in us – we must abide in Him**
- ***But the Devil is trying to deceive us – even through people doing the Devils' work***

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

- ***What about regular people (unbelievers?) – those who are trying to deceive us – those who are doing the Devil’s work, not God’s work and will?***
- ***Those that have the ‘spirit of the antichrist’?***
- ***Spiritual warfare is given to us as a gift through the Holy Spirit!***

RELATES TO THE 1ST HORSEMAN

- ***“This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.***
 - ***Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.“***
 - ***1 John 4:3***
- ***Relates to US in today’s world! How do we know?***

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- ***“No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God’s seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God.***
- ***By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil.*”**
- ***1 John 3:8-10***

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- ***How do you pick out these “children of the Devil”...the family of the Devil...of Team Darkness? Those with the spirit of the antichrist?***
 - ***We need to Test the Spirits (1 John 4)***
- ***Can they be among us? In society? Even in our churches?***

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- ***What about those who are among us in this world, even in our so-called Christian churches?***
- ***Fake Christians, second-hand Christians, lots of names and descriptions! Those not truly born again (regenerated through Christ) – masquerading as ‘children of God’?***
- ***How do we know who they are? What can we do? How can we be discerning?***

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- ***Christian faith is not spiritual gullibility – Test the spirits – Practice Discernment!***
- ***The unseen spiritual influences that guide people’s speech and actions can be “tested” by observing their doctrine and conduct, as well as by our gift from the Holy Spirit of spiritual discernment***
- ***There is a fine line between being judgmental and using discernment - but as Christians we should not tolerate a spirit or person who is misleading God’s people by speaking through demonic influence***
- ***Apostle John speaks to this!***

TEST THE SPIRITS

- ***“This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.***
- ***They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them.***
- ***We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us.***
- ***By this we know the Spirit of Truth and the spirit of error.”***
 - ***1 John 4:3-6***

WE MUST BE DISCERNING

- ***Many people who are fake Christians are of the world with the world's viewpoint and values having a man-centered, versus a God-centered system of thought***
- ***This relates directly to the fake, Jesus Messianic Pretender on the White Horse of the First Seal***
- ***How do we guard against “Fake”...until Jesus, the True Messiah, RETURNS to eradicate all Evil?***

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- ***How do we discern against fake Christians – even in the church of today?***
- ***These people can exist in the church – every church, at every level – they can be active in a church near you!***

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- ***One thing is lacking with them...none of these 'unsaved' fake Christians have a relationship with the Lord – they are not truly born again!***
- ***Who are these people? This is God's business – but Jesus warned us they exist in the Gospels! This is reiterated in the 1st Seal and can apply to US today!***

DISCERNMENT ~ HOW CAN WE TELL WHO IS A FAKE?

- ***We can go back to the words of Jesus (Matthew 7:21-23)***
 - ***“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you, depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”***

DISCERNMENT ~ HOW CAN WE TELL WHO IS A FAKE?

- *Jesus is saying many who will approach Him with a handful of works and a mouth full of platitudes which they proclaim over and over again claiming to be doing them in ‘My Name’*
- *They fail to realize they are blinded by what they **BELIEVE THEY HAVE DONE** – they are not Spirit-filled and Spirit-led*
- *But they have attempted to work the works of God without the benefit of really **KNOWING HIM** and **HIS WILL***
- *It is **DECEPTION** in the highest degree!*

***DISCERNMENT ~ HOW CAN WE TELL
WHO IS A FAKE?***

- ***If you don't know Christ, if you don't know God's Will, then sadly, Christ does not know YOU – this is the sad and gnawing truth***

REAL CHRISTIAN OR 2ND HAND?

- ***There is even a level of knowledge that the Unseen Spirit World has concerning US when WE ARE IN CHRIST***
- ***When Jesus knows us, so does the Devil and his minions***

TRUE CHRISTIANS PUT A DENT IN THE DEVILS KINGDOM!

- ***When we are truly saved and doing the Will of God through the Holy Spirit, we become visible on the Enemy's radar screen, putting a dent in the Devil's kingdom***
- ***Acts 19:13-16 is an example in Scripture – of how men attempted to use the name of Jesus for the sake of profit and popularity - a sort of 2nd Hand Christianity!***

DISCERNMENT ~ HOW CAN WE TELL WHO IS A FAKE?

- ***One cannot take the name of Jesus, the most powerful name in the universe, and use it for their own benefit, NOT the benefit of knowing Him personally and doing HIS WILL HIS WAY!***
- ***How do you know when you are truly in the Spirit and doing God's Will His Way?***
- ***2 Peter 1:5-10***

TRULY CHRISTIAN! TRULY SAVED!

- ***“Add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love...to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble, for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”***
- ***2 Peter 1:5-10***
- ***Faith is assumed (v 1) – Apostle Peter describes adding the fruit of the Spirit to our lives, as in Galatians 5***
- ***You can further test yourself...***



TEST YOURSELF

- ***Examine yourself as to whether you are in the Faith, in Christ, In the Spirit!***
- ***Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?***
 - ***2 Corinthians 13:5, Romans 8:16-17, 1 Peter 2:2, 1 Peter 4:1-4, 2 Peter 1:5-10***
- ***Have you tested yourself? Three Tests!***
 - ***1. Witness of the Spirit Test***
 - ***2. Word Test***
 - ***3. Change Test***

ARE YOU IN CHRIST, IN THE SPIRIT?

- ***1. Do you have the Witness of the Spirit?***
 - ***Does God, the Holy Spirit align with your spirit?***
 - ***Are we children of God? joint heirs with Christ? (Romans 8:16)***
 - ***Do you live according to being obedient to the Spirit, not the 'flesh'?***
 - ***Are you doing God's Will or your will?***

THE WORD TEST

- ***As newborn babies, desire the pure milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby”***
 - *1 Peter 2:2*
- ***2. The Word Test – how bad do you want to know God’s Word*** – do you want to read it, study it, deeply, fully, carefully, for the ***SOLE*** purpose of growing in ***Grace*** and becoming ***imagers of God*** - as we were created to be, more like ***Jesus Christ!***
- ***Study of the Word is an attribute of a true, pure church!***

THE CHANGE TEST

- ***3. Simply put, has your life changed since you were 'born again' – in Christ ?***
- ***Your thoughts, your speech, your desires – all altered by God, the Spirit ?***
- ***This will happen when you are Born Again – Regenerated in Christ !***
- ***1 Peter 4:1-4 ~ “For the Will of God”***

THE CHANGE TEST

- ***“Since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.”***
 - ***1 Peter 4: 1,2***

WE MUST NOT BECOME 'ONE OF THEM'!

- ***“We have spent enough of our time doing the will of Gentiles...when we walked in...abominable idolatries...
They think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you.”***
- ***1 Peter 4:1-4***
- ***The change in your life of true salvation is such that others may see this and think it strange that you do not want to run with them (join them) and be one of them which bring them to slander you and speak bad about you!***
- ***You do not let them make you “one of them”***

GOD'S WILL – FOR HIS GLORY!

- ***In Christ, we place our faith in His finished work, not ours – this is where true salvation begins and we are ‘in Christ’***
- ***Our desires are altered by God to truly know Him!***
- ***By knowing Him, we can practice discernment and realize fake ‘messiahs’ of today – in leadership in government and even in the church***

- ***We must be discerning and persevere in doing all for the Glory of God!***

1ST CENTURY MESSIANIC PRETENDERS ~ ANTI-CHRISTS!

- ***Many ‘Messianic Pretenders’ had come between the death of Jesus and the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD***
- ***This First Seal therefore had been fulfilled in the first century***
 - ***Acts 5:36 mentions a name, Theudas***
 - ***Josephus, the historian wrote of several other messianic pretender in his book Antiquities 20: 97-99, 160-172***
- ***This seal of the Scroll was fulfilled prior to the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD ...and is continuing to be fulfilled as history unfolds – even TODAY!***

FALSE CHRISTS AND FALSE PROPHETS OF TODAY

- ***And the First Seal symbolic of the Fake Messianic Pretender is continuing to be fulfilled as history unfolds – even TODAY!***
- ***Jesus warned us!***

WE MUST BE WATCHING!

- ***But what of the 'real' Antichrist?***
- ***The spirit of the antichrist has been present in the world – the first seal of the scroll is symbolic of this***
- ***When is the real antichrist supposed to emerge? The one Apostle Paul calls the Lawless One and Apostle John calls the Antichrist and the Beast in Revelation 12, 13?***
- ***What can we do about it?***

- ***As Christians we must be Discerning and diligently watching!***

THE FINAL ANTICHRIST

- ***We must study the content of the prophecies!***
- ***We will tie the prophecies of Daniel 7 which predicts the coming of the kingdom of the Antichrist for a time, times, and a half time where he will 'wear out the saints of the Most High' to Revelation 13:1-6***
- ***Satan's final tactical maneuver against the world is to become incarnate like God did with Jesus, and Satan will enter the world in the person of the Antichrist***

THE DECEIVER

- ***The frightening beast of Daniel 7 and the beast of Revelation 13 that John writes of is Satan incarnate – the Antichrist – Satan’s (the red dragon) attempt to imitate the Trinity***
- ***The antichrist is part of the unholy trinity of Satan – used to deceive the world as the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast (Rev 13:2,3)***

WE WILL NOT BE DECEIVED

- The ***Antichrist will attempt to be like Jesus – but he is counterfeit***
- ***He will be allowed to make war on the saints during his reign during the Great Tribulation***
- ***Prophesied in Daniel 7 as the Fourth Beast – exceedingly terrifying and different from the other 3 beasts (lion, bear and leopard)***
- ***This is why we need to know the prophecies – we need discernment, endurance and faith through the Holy Spirit!***
 - ***“Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints”***
 - ***Revelation 13:10***

SPIRITUALLY DISCERNED

- ***Without knowing Scripture, even Christian men and women may be confused and follow the Antichrist for a time – but will they come to their senses?***
- ***Through knowledge, guidance and discernment of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:14) many will already know as they are not of the spirit of the world, but of the Spirit of God, and pray that many will return to the Lord***

PAY ATTENTION!

- *The words of 2 Peter 1:19 will ring true,*
 - *“And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.”*

FALSE CHRISTS AND PROPHETS

- ***“Then if anyone says to you, Look, here is the Christ!...Do not believe it.***
- ***For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray even the elect.***
 - ***See, I have told you beforehand.”***

• ***Matthew 24: 23-25***

OTHER EVENTS OF THE FIRST 5 SEALS

- ***Jesus warned His Disciples of the other events that are listed in the first 5 Seals besides Messianic Pretenders (Anti-Christ)***
- ***All were fulfilled in the first Century, even before the Temple Destruction (70 AD)***
 - ***Wars – Jewish Revolt of 67 AD – people fled to the mountains of Pella fulfilling Daniel’s prophecy in Daniel 9***
 - ***Earthquakes: Sardis, Laodicea and Pompei) (late 60’s AD)***
 - ***Famines: Judea in late 40’s (Acts 11:28)***
 - ***Persecution (numerous events in the Book of Acts)***
 - ***Preaching to the Nations: Throughout the Roman Empire (the inhabited world: Romans 10, Col 1, 1 Timothy 3:16)***

***THE FIRST FIVE SEALS HAVE AND ARE
BEING FULFILLED***

- *The events of the first 5 Seals were fulfilled prior to the Temple Destruction in 70 AD*
- *They have been fulfilled, and are being fulfilled throughout human history*
- *They will continue to exist and cycle through until the Second Coming of Christ*
- *Why?*

THE FIRST 5 SEAL EVENTS CYCLE THROUGH HISTORY

- ***Sin is in this world because Satan is still here - People will continue to drift from the Lord and come under the power of evil***
- ***As Christians we are sanctified and In Christ, so in our lives on earth we are continuously being Saved from the power of sin through the Holy Spirit***
- ***Until the Final End Days with the opening of the 6th Seal which foretells of future, End Times (eschatological) Events, sin will exist until when through God's Plan of Saving Grace we will finally Be Saved from the presence of sin***

FROM JOHN'S PERSPECTIVE

- ***Keep in mind Apostle John was living in the 1st century - he received his Divine Apocalypse while on the Isle of Patmos where he was under arrest for 'crimes against Rome' in the mid-to-late 90's***
- ***Apostle John would have related Jesus' words from the Mount of Olives, the words of the prophets, and the "Apocalyptic Riders bearing Bad News" to the Roman Imperial Cult***

HOW DOES THE SYMBOLISM RELATE TO THE FIRST CENTURY

- ***What about the people in the first century living under the auspices of the Roman Imperial Cult throughout the world like Asia Minor – these were the people in the churches to whom the letter of Revelation was written to!***
- ***How would they have viewed the First Horseman in John's Apocalyptic Vision?***

REVELATION ~ AN ANTI-ROMAN LETTER

- ***Who would have been God's people's main enemy on earth during the first century? Were they forced by culture to worship the Roman Imperial Cult?***
- ***Remember the rebukes by Jesus to the 7 churches!***
- ***Remember, this is an Anti-Roman letter written to persecuted Christians – persecuted by the pagan Roman Empire!***

FROM THE EYES OF THE PEOPLE OF THE FIRST CENTURY

- ***First century Christians were persecuted by a succession of Roman Emperors***
- ***Nero (54-68 AD) Christians were thrown to wild beasts and burned alive as they were blamed for the fire of Rome in 64 AD***
- ***Domitian (81-96 AD) who followed his father who followed Nero and was under the command of his brother Titus***
- ***Titus was responsible for killing over 1 million Jews in Judea in a war. In a celebratory parade, Domitian rode a white war horse! Domitian then killed his brother, and became Emperor through lineage, not merit***
- ***Many parallels to the rider on the White Horse!***

ANTI-CHRIST

- ***Nero, Titus, Domitian and the Roman Cult Emperors were all “Anti-Christ” as they opposed Christ and His church, demanding to be worshipped as gods***
- ***In this way, the imagery of the Rider on the White Horse can be viewed as a foreshadow for all future Anti-Christ and the One Anti-Christ that will be in the future whom Jesus our Lord will come back to earth in his Second Coming to battle once and for all!***

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- ***The Rider on the White Horse is a foreshadow of the One Antichrist to come (Revelation 13, warned by Jesus in the Olivet Discourse)***
- ***The Rider on the White Horse symbolizes the Antichrist spirit already present on earth – then in the first century and today***
- ***John was warning readers to be discerning – readers of the first century and readers of Scripture TODAY***

ANTI-CHRIST

- *“See that no one leads you astray.*
- *For many will come in my name, saying I am the Christ, and they will lead many astray.*
- *And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet.*
 - *For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and here will be famines and earthquakes in various places.*
 - *All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.”*
 - *Matthew 24:4-8 (Mark 13:5-8)*

DELIVER YOU TO TRIBULATION

- ***“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake.***
- ***And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.***
- ***But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And the gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations and then the end will come.”***
- ***Matthew 24:9-14***

ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION

- ***”So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel (Daniel 9:24), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak...for then there will be great tribulation such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.”***
 - ***Matthew 24:15-21***

ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION

- ***Jesus warning to his disciples moves from the characteristics of this age (30 AD) (where people thought that the prophecy of Daniel was being fulfilled) to clarification that complete fulfillment of Daniels prophecy will be found in the Temple destruction (70 AD) and the image of the Antichrist being set up in the Last days (foretold in Rev 13:14)***
- ***Note: The people of Jesus times thought that Daniel's prophecy had already been fulfilled by the Roman Emperor Antiochus IV during the Maccabees with an altar constructed to Zeus in the Temple (167 BC), and swine sacrificed there, Sabbath was profaned, and circumcision abolished***

JESUS PAINTS AN IMAGE FOR A HORRIFIC FUTURE

- ***Jesus speaks of the Great Tribulation!***
- ***for then there will be great tribulation such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.***
- ***And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.”***
 - ***Matthew 24: 21-22***

CUTTING SHORT – FOR THE SAKE OF THE ELECT

- ***The elect refers to those who follow Christ during this horrific period (42 months or 3 and a half years of Tribulation) as prophesied in Daniel 7: 19-25)***
- ***Cutting short ~ a reference to God's wrath being cut short being 42 months of tribulation during the antichrist's reign (Daniel 7, Revelation 11:2, Ezekiel 14:21, or possibly to the Rapture (pre? or mid?- or post-Tribulation?))***
- ***No one knows for sure!***

THE ANTICHRIST WILL BE REVEALED

- ***“Now concerning the coming (Parousia) of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.***
- ***Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.”***
 - ***2 Thessalonians 2:1-4***

CHRIST WILL RETURN

- ***“For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.”***
 - ***Matthew 24:27***
- ***Christ will appear gloriously to all and impossible for people not to see and recognize His Glorious Return!***

WHEN WILL CHRIST RETURN?

- ***“Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.***
- ***Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man and all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”***
 - ***Matthew 24:29-31***

MATTHEW 24 & THE 6TH SEAL – THE “END TIMES”

- ***We will see parallels to the 6th Seal – the first of the Eschatological Seals (6 & 7) the Day of the Lord (End Times)***
- ***Parallels back to the OT (Daniel 2, 7 & 9) prophecy***
- ***Points forward to Jesus' return at the end of the age in Revelation 19 (also 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10) with a Trumpet Call***
- ***Christ will be revealed as the eternal ruler of the Kingdom of God with dominion over the earth and its inhabitants (Acts 1:11)***

THE TIME OF CHRIST'S RETURN...WHEN EXACTLY?

- ***No one knows – only the Father (Matthew 24:32-51) – But He WILL RETURN!***
- ***“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”***
 - ***Matthew 24:35***
- ***Jesus has Divine Authority and teaching even beyond heaven and earth!***

THE TIME OF CHRIST'S RETURN...WHEN EXACTLY?

- ***Will Christians be on earth during the time of the antichrist and his reign during the 3.5 years of the tribulation as prophesied in Daniel?***
- ***Must the antichrist be revealed prior to the 2nd Coming of Christ?***
- ***We don't know for sure – but one thing for sure is that God wants us to prepare our hearts now, be diligent, have discernment and ask for direction and guidance through the Holy Spirit!***

TIMELINE IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

- ***When is the beginning of the Great Tribulation and its Timeline? ...what is the Timeline of the days of the 'End Times' ?***
- ***Traditional Linear Time Line – the beginning of the opening of the Seals on the Scroll by the Lamb is considered by many to be the beginning of the Great Tribulation***
- ***Each Seal on each of the scrolls rolled up to form the Scroll that Jesus opens follows the one before, and its entire contents must be executed from start to finish before the next seal and its contents can be executed***
- ***The contents of the scroll within each seal must occur in the exact order in history as John wrote it down***

TRADITIONAL TIMELINE

- ***The first 4 seals take place during the first half of the Great Tribulation – the first seal marks the beginning of the Great Tribulation and must be fulfilled before the Tribulation starts***
- ***The fifth seal marks the midpoint at about 42 months – 3½ years***
- ***The 6th and 7th seals take place in the second half of the Great Tribulation (Revelation 16-20)***
- ***It is a linear, progressive timeline with the events of each seal also following a linear sequence lasting 7 years***

NON-LINEAR TIMELINE OF REVELATION

- ***Or is the timeline presented in the Book of Revelation really more like John would have seen it in heaven – being multi-dimensional and non-linear - Being what was prophesied in the OT ?***
- ***How long does the Tribulation last?***
 - ***As prophesied in Daniel where the Great Tribulation lasts for 3 and a half years during the reign of the antichrist?***
 - ***What is God's Timeline? NOT our timeline! We really don't know!***
- ***We see through the eyes of John, being in Heaven, and seeing things on God's Timeline...not ours***

NON-LINEAR TIMELINE OF REVELATION

- ***Adopt a “Hebrew” way of thinking and the writing style of the culture where main points are built up to in a repetitive way to a center point climax or chiasm***
- ***Numbers have meaning and are equated with the Hebrew alphabet***
- ***Repetitive, chiastic writing style of the entire Bible, where messages are presented and reiterated multiple times, building to a main point like stairs on a ladder, that is presented in the middle (top of the ladder) rather than presenting the climax at the end!***
- ***The points are then repeated on the stairs down the ladder to further emphasize the main message at the top!***

TIMING OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD – DIFFERENT VIEWPOINTS

- ***Understanding timing of the coming of the Kingdom of God and Millennial rule of Christ takes careful exegesis of Scripture and help of the Holy Spirit***
- ***Different views of the timeline of the coming of the Kingdom of God – Historic or Reformed Premillennialism, Dispensational Premillennialism, Amillennialism, Postmillennialism – all are different viewpoints***
 - ***Never forget that there is unity in diversity!***
- ***Understanding Scripture leads to greater understanding on our parts and – we will dig deep as we study Revelation, with ties to the whole Bible!***

WE MUST DIG DEEP INTO SCRIPTURE

- ***Every preacher's call is to preach the whole counsel of God, as stated by the Apostle Paul in Acts 20:27***
- ***“I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.”***
- ***Who are we to determine which passages of Scripture are to be preached and which are to be avoided? We won't skip over parts of Scripture that are difficult!***
 - ***“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching”***
 - ***2 Tim 3:16***

UNIQUE NON-LINEAR TIMELINE

- ***The first five scrolls are historical – they were fulfilled in the 1st century and continue to be fulfilled, repeated and cycled throughout human history***
 - ***Matthew 24:3-14***
- ***They are not indicators of the End Times (historical not eschatological) but they are signs (birth pains) to warn us about what is to come!***
- ***The church age, wars, famine, plagues, and persecution are recurring events that merely indicate birth pains of what is to come – not necessarily ‘indicators’ of the End Times***

THE 6TH SEAL IS AN INDICATOR OF THE END TIMES

- **The 6th Seal is a different story!**
- **Parallels to Matthew 24: 15-51**
- **The “End Times” Seal (Eschatological)**
- **The 6th Seal has not yet been fulfilled and believed to be the only eschatological seal**
- **The 7th Seal talks about what occurred in the 6th Seal – it is a telescopic expansion of the 6th Seal, adding more information and detail about the same events which are presented in the 6th seal**

THE END TIMES CONTINUE IN THE 7TH SEAL IN DETAIL

- ***The 7th Seal is a progressive, telescopic expansion of the 6th seal***
- ***Events in the 7th Seal reiterate the events of the 6th Seal giving more detail, and adding elaborate symbolic imagery***
- ***By the way, the 7th Seal is the climax, the chiastic center point of the entire book of Revelation!!!!***



THE FIRST HORSEMAN SUMMARY

- ***The Rider on the White Horse ~ symbolic of the Antichrist to come in the future***
- ***Symbolic of The ‘antichrist spirit’ – present in the world then, and today***
- ***Symbolic of “Messianic Pretenders” (presents himself like Jesus in chapter 19 of Revelation) but he is NOT Jesus***
- ***Many of us will worship the rider in the first seal – a false god – humans have worshipped false gods throughout history = IDOLATRY***
- ***People worship lots of things besides God - Themselves, money, power, prestige – this is not new***

THE FIRST HORSEMAN SUMMARY



- ***Many antichrists will come and go through history – many will be deceivers - as Paul wrote many will perform counterfeit miracles and his own lying wonders which are ~***
- ***“According to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders”***
 - ***2 Thessalonians 2:9***
- ***Eventually, the one, final Antichrist will demand that people worship him, as he is a member of the “Unholy Trinity,” and will appear to suffer a mortal wound, and be resurrected !***

JESUS WARNED US!

- ***The Rider on the white horse alerts us to be discerning - and to engage in Spiritual Warfare against the ‘antichrist spirit’ in the world today !***
- ***We must worship the One, True Jesus and not be deceived by the Devil and his minions***
- ***We, as Christians, are responsible to not follow the ‘messiahs’ of this culture or of ‘the world’***
- ***This Christ-pretending conqueror now sets the stage for what Jesus warned us about in Matthew 24:6 – progressive, future destruction and deception!***

JESUS WARNED US!

- ***Jesus warned us about a future world leader who will sway nations and people to think ‘this is the Messiah’ – applies to us today, the past and the future!***
- ***Think back to Jesus’ frightening prediction in the Gospel of John,***
- ***“I have come in My Father’s name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive”***
 - ***John 5:43***

DESTRUCTION FOLLOWS IN THE WAKE OF THE 1ST RIDER

- *in Revelation, God is warning us to be discerning – even though the first Rider is symbolic of conquering with diplomacy (a bow with no arrows) the supposed peace brought by the Antichrist will NOT last*
- *There are 3 more riders who follow in the first rider's destructive wake, who will bring war, famine and widespread death*
- *The citizens of earth will take the Antichrist as their “ruler” their “messiah” but destruction initiated by his deception will overtake them ALL!*
- *This destruction begins with the appearance of a Second horse...a RED one!*

MOVING FORWARD...

On to the opening of the Second Seal !

In comes the **Rider on the Red Horse** – ‘bearing bad news of war’, as he is given a sword and permitted by the Lord to take peace from the earth

THE LAMB OPENS THE SECOND SEAL

REVELATION 6:3-4



***The Rider on the **Red**
Horse***

TIES TO PROPHECY OF JESUS IN THE GOSPEL

- ***“And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet.”***
 - ***Matthew 24:6***

THE LAMB BREAKS THE SECOND SEAL

- ***John heard the summoning of a second rider, this time by the second Living Creature, the Ox, saying,***



- ***“Come!”***
- ***Revelation 6:3***

THE SECOND SEAL

- ***“Out came another horse, bright red. Its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that people should slay one another, and he was given a great sword.”***

- ***Revelation 6:4***



THE RIDER WAS 'PERMITTED' BY GOD

- ***Once again, note that God is in Control!***
- ***God gives the second horseman the ability to take away peace – He gives the rider a sword & gives the rider permission to wage war!***
- ***The pursuit of conquest brings bloodshed as people slay each other!***
- ***These are wars Jesus warned us about in Matthew 24:6,***
 - ***“And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars”***

DEVASTATING THE FOOD SUPPLY!

- ***In the ancient world, war also had a devastating impact on the land – hostile, invading armies made farming of the locals impossible!***
- ***Soldiers camped in the fields, stole and destroyed crops by fire, and by marching through the crops, trampled the growing plants***

AIDS A SIEGE

- ***Food supplies are ravaged, contaminated, and burned***
- ***Destroying the food aids the siege & allows for victory over the enemy***
- ***Brings on price hikes of food, food shortages, and eventually widespread famine***
- ***All of this sets-the-stage for the next Seal to be opened, the Black Horse and its Rider of the Third Seal!***

APPLICATION TO US TODAY

- ***How are the workings of the Red horseman symbolic of events that relate to happenings in today's world?***
- ***Think of food shortages resultant from fires, warehouses (storing food and ammunition) and fields being burned?***
- ***What about violence becoming more prevalent?... "wars and rumors of wars?"***

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

- ***We will read how Jesus prophesied future events of world history as they unfold in the Book of Revelation***
- ***The events set forth by us trusting the antichrist are symbolic of 'idol worship' in the OT and warnings by the prophets – warnings which came true then and now – as history unfolds with many wars, famines, and death throughout the ages***

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF WITH THE FIRST 5 SEALS

- ***Jesus' warnings did and will come true – in the first century, and every century to follow, culminating with the coming of the one, true Antichrist!***
- ***The first 5 Seals repeat themselves, with the horses galloping throughout time and history – all due to the presence of the 'antichrist spirit' in the world!***
- ***When will the final antichrist appear?***

WHY IS THE 2ND HORSE **RED?**

- ***Symbolism: The color of blood ~ associated with terror and carnage***
- ***The color red is symbolic throughout the book of **Revelation** - A red horse here, a Red Dragon (Satan) in Rev 12, and a Red Beast in Revelation 17***
- ***Symbolic of the spread of war and bloodshed over the earth – the red horse & its lethal rider will engulf the world in global warfare***
- ***Violence is commonplace and symbolizes God's wrath***

WHAT WAS GIVEN TO THIS RIDER?

- ***The rider on the Red horse was given a great sword – God is in control and gives permission!***
- ***Permission for assassinations, massacres, and slaughter of people***
- ***Violence has happened in ancient times, and over and over throughout history and will in the future***
- ***Can these events also be related to happenings Today?***

PROGRESSIVE, UNFOLDING OF HISTORY

- ***Remember...***
- ***The Red Horse and the Rider with the sword FOLLOWED the white horse and its 'messianic pretender' fake, diplomatic rider***
- ***This is symbolic that the wars and bloodshed are a RESULT of the white horseman's actions!***
- ***Keep this unfolding of events in mind as the next two horseman arrive on the scene!***

THE RIDER ON THE BLACK HORSE

The Third Seal
Revelation 6:5,6



THE 3RD SEAL IS OPENED BY THE LAMB

“When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come!”

And I looked, and behold, a black horse!
And its rider had a pair of scales in his hand. “

• Revelation 6:5

WHY A BLACK HORSE ?



- ***Symbolic of doom, gloom, and curses by God to come – inflation and famine!***
- ***Events of the wars and unrest have resulted in siege and disruption of commercial routes and crops***
- ***Produces scarcity of food and price hikes***
- ***Results in famine and people perishing***

GOD SPEAKS OF FOOD SCARCITY

- ***“And I heard what seemed to be a voice in the midst of the four living creatures, saying,***
- ***A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius, and do not harm the oil and wine!”***
 - *Revelation 6:6*

GOD'S CURSES ARE NOT NEW

- ***Pearl: Importantly God spoke of curses for sins and disobedience in the Torah he had given to His chosen people of Israel (in Deuteronomy 28)***
- ***These curses for sins involved the enemies destroying vineyards, crops and herds***
- ***Parallels to the Seals of the 4 horsemen in Revelation***

GOD PROMISED CURSES FOR DISOBEDIENCE

- ***“The LORD shall bring a nation against you...it shall eat the offspring of your cattle and the fruit of your ground, until you are destroyed; it also shall not leave you grain, wine, or oil, the increase of your herds or the young of your flock, until they have caused you to perish.”***
 - ***Deuteronomy 28:49-51***

WHY SCALES ?

- ***The rider carries scales for measuring grains and their prices***
- ***A heavenly voice comments on the scales' significance – citing inflated grain prices of 8 – 10 times normal !***

CONTEXT OF THE DAY

- ***In the first century, a quart of wheat (3 quarts of barley) was what one person, or a small family, needed to survive for 1 day***
- ***A denarius was one day's wages***
- ***Pearl: One day's wages would provide for sustenance for one person – or a very small, poor family – for one day only!***

PRICES ARE 10 TIMES NORMAL

- ***Prices of wheat and barley are 8 – 10 times normal***
- ***Central Point: Prices are driven-up due to scarcity of crops from the results of the 1st and 2nd horsemen's actions***
- ***Life will, and has been multiple times in the past, become tough for most people due to the progressive unfolding of the events of the apocalyptic horsemen***

CONTEXT OF THE DAY – “DO NOT HARM THE OIL AND WINE”

- *Oil was needed to prepare bread*
- *Wine was necessary for the purification of water – water will become contaminated leading to disease*
 - *These have become luxuries that only the rich can afford*
- *In 92 AD the Roman Emperor Domitian, during a grain shortage, ordered the vineyards cut down due to the extreme shortage of grain crops*
- *Here, God is saying to spare the olive and grape vineyards at this stage of His pouring out of wrath*

***THE RIDER ON THE PALE
“CHLOROS” HORSE***



The Fourth Seal
Revelation 6:8

THE LAMB OPENS THE FOURTH SEAL

“When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, “Come !”

“And I looked, and behold, a pale horse!

And its rider’s name was Death, and Hades followed him.

And they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by wild beasts of the earth.”

- ***Revelation 6:7,8***

WAS THE HORSE 'PALE' OR 'ASHEN GREEN' !

- *The English translation says the horse was 'pale' – the literal word is 'chloros' in Greek*
- *The horse was the color “chloros” (root of 'chlorophyll') - ashen green pallor*

WHY IS THE 4TH HORSE ASHEN GREEN?

- ***Characteristic of the color of the decomposition of a corpse***
- ***Its Rider was Death and Hades followed***

PROGRESSIVELY INCREASING DESTRUCTION

- ***The rider on the ashen green horse was given authority by God to kill 25% of the population***
- ***Why 25% ?***
- ***Authority at this time is limited by God's providence restraining His own wrath, and humanity's violence - the rider is limited to kill 25% of the population***
- ***We will see this progressively increases as Revelation goes on***

PROGRESSIVELY INCREASING DESTRUCTION

- ***Note the progressive destruction among the 4 Horsemen, which will continue to progressively increase as Revelation unfolds***
- ***The sword, famine, and pestilence sum-up the disasters symbolized by the red and black horses – culminating with 1/4 being killed at the point of history when the pale horse emerges***

PROGRESSIVELY INCREASING DESTRUCTION

- ***But Wait... We will see more progressive destruction as John's Revelation continues !***
- ***Revelation 8:7-12 Trumpet Judgments – One Third of All affected***
- ***Revelation 16:3 Bowl Judgments – EVERY LIVING CREATURE on EARTH***

PERSONAL APPLICATION: *WHERE ARE WE NOW IN THE TIMELINE?*

- *At this point, is the 4th Seal representative of End Times – the Great Tribulation !?*
- *A fourth of the earth is killed – that is a lot of people!*
- *Has this Seal been fulfilled in history ever before?*
- *Is it being fulfilled Today?*
- *Is the ‘fourth’ of the earth a literal translation, or symbolic?*

WHAT IS THE SYMBOLISM OF THE 4TH RIDER'S NAME?

- *The fourth Rider is the only rider to have a name*
- *His name is Death*
- *And Hades followed him*

- *What does all this mean?*

SOME ENGLISH, HEBREW & GREEK INTERPRETATION

- ***Some background and context is needed to unravel what John saw about the Rider named “Death” (the Rider’s Name) and “Hades, who followed the Rider”***
- ***Some “behind-the-scenes” meaning!***

BEHIND THE SCENES OF TRANSLATIONS

- ***“Behind the Greek” – death is Thanatos, Hades is the ‘underworld’ (but not Hell)***
- ***“Behind the Hebrew” ~ death is Mavet , Sheol is a holding place for the dead (but not Hell ~ Gehinmom (Hebrew))***

SOME ENGLISH, HEBREW & GREEK INTERPRETATION

- ***Hades is not Hell – it was originally meant to convey the Hebrew concept of Sheol which is closer to death than to Hell – some translational errors between Greek, Hebrew and English exist!***
- ***Sheol in Hebrew is the idea of a temporary holding place for the dead – not Hell – but connects death with dying – thus the words of the Rider’s name was ‘Death with Hades following him’***

SHEOL

- ***Sheol is a temporary realm of the dead, a holding place in which the dead await the day of judgment and resurrection***
- ***Sheol does have God's presence – it is NOT Hell (Hebrew: Gehinmom)***
- ***Hell is a post-judgment place***
 - ***Supporting OT Scripture:***
 - ***Psalm 139:8, Genesis 37:35, Psalm 18:5, 49:14, 116:3, Isaiah 28:15,***

GOD'S CURSES FOR SIN IS NOT NEW

- ***Other important context to understand***
- ***The 4th Rider's permission to destroy with sword, famine, and pestilence and by wild beasts of the earth has many connections to the Old Testament***
- ***Reiterates the age-old theme of idolatry being a sin that bears God's wrath***

THE 4TH HORSEMAN ~ THE “DEATH RIDER”

- ***The “Death” rider who was given authority over a quarter of the earth’s population to destroy lives by sword, famine, pestilence and wild beasts is highly significant as it connects the text of Revelation to Ezekiel, a book in the OT***
- ***Reiterates the theme of anti-idolatry which is prevalent throughout the Bible and continues to resurface throughout the Book of Revelation with the opening of the 7 Seals***

4 FOLD JUDGMENT OF GOD IN THE OT – PARALLEL TO REVELATION

- ***“For thus says the LORD God, How much more when I send My four severe judgments against Jerusalem: sword, famine, wild beasts and plague to cut off man and beast from it!”***
 - ***Ezekiel 14:21***

4 FOLD JUDGMENT OF GOD IN THE OT – PARALLEL TO REVELATION

- ***God has always warned us about idol worship, and the words of Ezekiel 14:21-23 were as applicable to the ancient world as they are to us today!***
- ***Note the wording about 4 severe judgments against Israel (both the faithful and unfaithful are affected) proclaimed by God which is almost verbatim to Revelation 6:8!***

GOD SENT 4 HARSH JUDGMENTS AGAINST JERUSALEM FOR IDOLATRY

- ***In Ezekiel of the OT, God sent 4 harsh judgments – herev (sword), ra'av (famine), Chaya ra'a (wicked beast), and dever (plague)***
- ***Only now in the Book of Revelation, it's not just Jerusalem being judged, but all nations!***

THE THEME OF GOD AGAINST IDOLATRY

- ***Idolatry (worshipping anything or anyone other than God) is a central theme of sinning throughout the Bible (The OT Torah and the Prophets, and is front-and-center as Jesus' rebukes the 7 churches of Revelation)***
- ***God has warned us time-after-time to guard against practicing idolatry, and issued harsh penalties for doing so - as we read in Deuteronomy and Leviticus and the books of the prophets !***

PERSONAL APPLICATION TODAY

- ***Idolatry is nothing new – Idolatry Is a powerful temptation put out there by Satan!***
- ***Applies to Us today!***

GOD MEANS BUSINESS!

- ***God explicitly states in Leviticus how He will punish those who engage in idolatry ~ ‘seven times more for sins’ with plague, beasts, pestilence and death***
- ***“I will destroy your high places, and cut down your incense altars, and heap your remains on the remains of your idols, for My soul shall abhor you.”***
 - ***Leviticus 26:30***

GOD PUNISHES THE SIN OF IDOLATRY

- ***God also warned the prophet Jeremiah about the **sins of idolatry** of the people of Judah***
- ***Jeremiah 16 – 17 speaks of God’s judgment of sword, famine and diseases coming against the people for their sin of idolatry in their deceitful, sick hearts***
- ***The people of Judah had turned from the LORD, worshipped Asherim, and trusted in man making,***
 - ***“flesh is his strength, whose heart turns from the LORD”***
- ***“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick”***
 - ***Jeremiah 17:5,9***

GOD IS A JUST AND MERCIFUL JUDGE

- ***“I, The LORD, search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.”***
 - ***Jeremiah 17:10***

IDOLATRY – THE SIN WEAVED THROUGHOUT THE BIBLE

- ***The sin of idolatry is the fundamental sin ~ people worshipping anything and everything other than God!***
 - ***Elicits the harshest of punishments in the Torah***
 - ***Undermines the core of Truth***
 - ***Warps reality, and robs God of the Glory due to Him !***
- ***As God’s message unfolds in Revelation, the charge of idolatry becomes clearer and clearer!***

CONTEXT ~ “HOUSE GODS”

- *In their practice of idolatry, ancient people of Mediterranean cultures (Rome, Egypt, Canaanites, Persians, Greeks) often kept representations of their ‘gods’ they worshipped in their houses – known as ‘house gods’*
- *These ‘house gods’ were metal likenesses of the deities (creatures that looked like animals/humans) that were easily worshipped at home*
- ***“They exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator”***
 - *Romans 2:25*

APPLICATION TO US ~ OUR 'HOUSE GODS' OF TODAY

- ***Our modern “idols” don’t look like these ancient ‘house gods’ but they are similar !***
- ***They are indeed worshipped in our homes & take center-stage in our lives – things like money, power, prestige, even our kids, and people we look up to in the media and movies***
- ***Today’s house gods are ‘mental’ versus ‘metal’***
- ***These ‘house gods’ are anything or anyone people devote their lives to, and trust in - ‘worshipping the flesh’ rather than God***

“MENTAL” NOT “METAL” IDOLS OF TODAY

- ***People’s refusal to make God the center-of-all existence and failure to praise and worship God in all His Glory fulfills the fundamental sin of idolatry !***
- ***Even though modern idols don’t look like ancient idols made of metal, wood, or stone they are still served by us Today!***

“MENTAL” NOT “METAL” IDOLS OF TODAY

- ***We practice idolatry today, everyday – and we must be discerning to know when we are doing so, and when others around us are doing so, repent and change!***
- ***As faithful Christians we know we sin, but we must be discerning, repent & turn from our sin!***
- ***Goes back to the “spirit, word and change test” of true Christians that we talked about!***

FAITH IN GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

- ***We will know that we are practicing idolatry by truly knowing God through prayer, study of Scripture, being filled with the Holy Spirit, resulting in having true faith and knowing that the root sin is the failure to value God above all things***
- ***Truly Knowing God makes us want to honor and praise Him as He should be !***
- ***Goes back to how God is honored in Heaven!
 (“your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven”
(Matt 6:10)***

FAITH IN GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

- ***We must not reject the Lordship of God over our lives*** – we must know ***God through faith - in a Saving sense and also of His Sovereignty and His attributes*** – not just our ‘belief’ of His existence, or intellectual acknowledgment
- ***Through Jesus Christ, and being filled with the Holy Spirit, we will come to faithfully truly know God, gladly giving Him Lordship over our lives and giving Him the Glory that He deserves!***

OUR NEED – BE GOD-CENTERED!

- ***We need to have our hearts and minds shaped by God's Word – be vertically God-centered NOT man-centered (horizontally centered)***
- ***We need to love God with all our heart, soul, and might (Deuteronomy 6:4 ~ the Greatest Commandment)***
- ***We need to love God's Glory!***

OUR NEED

- ***We need to hear and take into our hearts what Revelation 6 shows us***
 - ***It shows us how passionately committed to His own Glory God is !***
- ***We need to understand this, so we can understand what Revelation reveals to us about God!***

IF YOU LOVE GOD'S GLORY

- ***When Jesus takes over in Revelation 5 – when He seizes control and opens the Scroll in God's Right Hand – unveiling all history, future events, and the End times – what do you expect to happen ?***
- ***Do you expect that His concerns are for God's Glory?***
- ***God's concerns are Jesus' concerns...are they our concerns?***

HONORING GOD

- ***OR, when Jesus takes over, do you expect blue skies and happy smiles everywhere?***
- ***Or do you expect to see God's Glory honored?***
- ***Are your concerns Jesus' concerns? - Are you concerned about what concerns God, and what He has told us, including His warnings, in the Bible?***

HONORING GOD

- **Is your main concern thoughts of how people owe God honor and glory...but refuse to give it????**
- **If so, Revelation 6 is *NOT* surprising or offending to you !**
- **If your concerns are *not* God's concerns, Revelation 6 is surprising, and not something you want to study or even think about!**

OUR CONCERN SHOULD BE FOR GOD'S GLORY

- ***God created the world for His Glory – and He promises to punish those who do not glorify Him as the True, One God as He should be honored***
- ***God will keep His promises!***
- ***God is just, and He will justly repay all the ways that His Glory has been despised and His Holiness defiled!***
- ***This is the Main Point of Revelation 6!***

GOD'S WRATH AGAINST SIN

- ***God's wrath in the Book of Revelation is directed against those who do not glorify Him***
- ***Refers to His personal anger against sin – it is not selfish, but represents His Holy and loving response to human wickedness***
- ***God's wrath is expressed for good reason since his power and divine nature are clearly revealed through the world He has created –***
- ***Yet even though people know this intellectually and may even 'believe' in God, He is rejected as Lord over their lives by many people who are not truly faithful***

GLORY OF GOD HAS BEEN EXCHANGED FOR IDOLS

- ***“For His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to Him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.***
- ***Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds, animals and creeping things.”***
- ***Romans 1:20-22***

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- ***People do not generally sin in “innocent ignorance”, for they know God’s decree that evil deserves condemnation***
- ***But evil goes even further when people, especially Christians who know better, give approval for their own sin, and also approve others about an evil course they have taken***

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- ***This applies to people and leadership in churches of today – this is why we must be discerning and not assume that all churches are pure and good***
- ***Christians should Test the Spirit, be discerning, and not be spiritually gullible!***

CIRCLES BACK TO GOD'S GLORY

- ***If you are concerned about what concerns God, your primary concern will be for His Glory!***
- ***Are your concerns derived from the Bible, or from something else?***
- ***You should be offended by people and their actions who trample God's Glory and refuse to honor Him – you will want to see justice done and Revelation 6 will not offend you***
- ***Do the events of the 4 Horsemen surprise or offend you? The wrath of God begins to be visited with the 4 Horsemen of Revelation 6 – God's Will & justice will be done!***

GOD'S GLORY

- *If you love God's Glory, it will not surprise you, or offend you when Jesus takes control by opening the Scroll, and then the wrath of God begins to fall in Revelation 6*
- ***It will not surprise you – it will satisfy you***
- *God has been patient for all these long ages - allowing crimes, and injustices and blasphemies and abominations for so long – tolerating lies to be spoken about Him*
- *Revelation 6 promises that one day the wrath will begin to fall – justice will be done- the wicked will give account – the righteous will be avenged*

JUDGMENTS IN REVELATION TIED TO GOD'S GLORY

- ***God will be Glorified in His Justice! The judgments that start with the 4 Horsemen progressively develop from one horseman to the next and develop further as Revelation unfolds!***
- ***The judgements in Revelation 6 - 16 are linked back to the Throne Room***
- ***The judgements that the horsemen bring are called for by the 4 Living Creatures who are faithful to and truly know God – they surround Him on His Throne and call for all to worship Him and the Lamb!***

GOD'S GLORY – HIS HONOR!

- ***All judgments are tied to God's Glory!***
- ***In the Throne Room we see how God and the Lamb are glorified and supposed to be worshipped by ALL CREATION!***
- ***Glory describes the Honor that should be given to God by everyone and everything in the Universe – it is honor shared by all members of the Trinity***

APPLICATION TO THOSE WHO LOVE AND GLORIFY GOD

- ***We love God's Glory, God's Honor – we love to honor God!***
- ***God made us to reflect His Glory!***
- ***There is a light, a splendor around the life of the person who truly loves and honors God - as we glorify God as His image bearers we let this light shine! (2 Cor 3:18)***
- ***Be the light to the world as you Glorify God!***

ARE END TIMES NEAR ? ~ APPLICATION TO US

3 Things Noticed of Today

- ***1. Growing corruption*** ~ our hearts are deceptive and full of wickedness (Jeremiah 17:9-10)
- ***Men are lovers of themselves, disobedient to God, and turning from God – worship ‘mental ‘idols of today and are not God-centered***
- ***We must Remain steadfast, looking for the author and perfecter of our Faith – Jesus Christ (Hebrews 12:2)***

ARE END TIMES NEAR ?

- ***2. Increased War***
- ***Matthew 24:6-7 Wars and Rumors of Wars***
- ***There is one true source of peace – Jesus Christ***

ARE END TIMES NEAR ?

- ***3.A Rise in Deceivers (Matthew 24:4)***
- ***Christians must be on guard for deception***
- ***Know the Bible to guard your heart – we must know the True Savior so there is no guess-work as to whether or not Jesus is who He says He is***
- ***Do not rely on books, movies, the media – rely on the living Word of God!***

ARE END TIMES NEAR ?

- ***4. Increasing cosmic upheaval***
- ***Are we on the cusp of the Sixth Seal?***

RELY ON THE WORD OF GOD !

- ***“Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this Book.”***
 - ***Revelation 22:7***
- ***Be filled with the Holy Spirit!***

THE FIFTH SEAL

Revelation 6: 9-11